

Sylvanna M. Vargas

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SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (beginner)

Computer: Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), Internet research (including PsycINFO and PubMed), Survey Monkey, SPSS, NVivo

Assessments: SCID I (Spanish & English), TARQ (Treatment Adherence and Retention Questionnaire, Spanish & English)

Medical: Certified phlebotomist, complete medical work-up (labs, EKG, vital signs)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts: Major in Psychology, minor in English Literature June 2011

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

- CGPA: 3.52, Major: 3.61
- *Undergraduate Thesis:* "Cultural Variations in Folk Psychiatry: A Matter of Social Hierarchy?"
 - Supervised by Andrew Ryder and David Dunkley

University of Miami, coursework in psychology and liberal arts
Coral Gables, Florida, USA

Attended Sept 2006- December 2007

Study Abroad

Franklin College Switzerland, Lugano, Switzerland

Summer 2007

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2013	Grant finalist for Fundación Centroamericana de Desarrollo Cultural
2006-08	Awarded Florida Medallion Scholar scholarship
2006-07	University of Miami's Alpha Lambda Delta (Honors Society)
2007	University of Miami's Honors College student
2006	Awarded AXA Leadership Scholarship
2006	University of Miami Dean's List

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant July 2012- present

New York State Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence and Hispanic Treatment Program,
New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY

- Coordinating and running final year of 5-year RCT on anti-depressant adherence among low-income Hispanics
- Dispensing antidepressant medication, subject payments, conducting psychological assessments and interviews
- Selecting and developing content for new website, and collaborating in manuscript and grant preparations
- Supervising volunteers, including students on practicum

Independent Evaluator

February 2013- present

Hoarding Disorders Research Program,

New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY

- Conducting home visits for participants with Hoarding Disorder, as part of a pilot treatment study
- Assessing progress of people who have difficulty with clutter and are concerned about possible home eviction

Administrative Assistant (student affiliate since 2011)

October 2012- present

Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture

- Preparing annual conference program materials and coordinating abstract review process
- Facilitating and participating in Program Committee meetings

Laboratory Manager

January 2012- August 2012

Culture and Emotions Laboratory, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

- Generated administrative policies to organize a lab of 15 undergraduate volunteers and three graduate students
- Recruited community participants and implemented experimental procedures involving social support and culture
- Reviewed IRB submissions, as well as edited manuscripts and other lab written material

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Psychology Intern

2009- 2010

Maison Levinschi, Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Montreal, Quebec

- Consulted with a client suffering from schizophrenia in a one-on-one 'helper' setting
- Co-led two therapy groups of psycho-educational and interactive orientations

ABA Therapist

2007-2008

Private residences, Miami, Florida

- Provided individualized ABA therapy for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Partook in monthly 'Lovaas' full-day workshops, and weekly supervision as part of ongoing training

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Ban, L., Lee, B.O., Kirmayer, L.J., **Vargas, S.**, & Ryder, A. G. (submitted for publication). Cultural differences in concepts of psychiatric disorder, resilience, and recovery.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Doucercain, M., **Vargas, S.**, & Ryder, A. G. (accepted). Mixed-Methods Research: Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to the Psychological Study of Culture. In N. Zane, G. Bernal, & F. Leong (Eds.), *Culturally-Informed Evidence-Based Practice for Ethnic Minorities: Challenges and Solutions*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Vargas, S., & Kramer, L. (2013, Summer). From the Desk of the Executive Director: You Told Us What You Want and We're Responding. *Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture*, 2.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dere, J., **Vargas, S.**, & Ryder, A. (2013, Jan). *Cultural values and etiological beliefs about depression: An examination among Euro-Canadians and Chinese-Canadian undergraduates*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Cultural Psychology Preconference, New Orleans, LA.

Gomez-Garibello, C., **Vargas, S.**, Shaheen, S., & Talwar, V. (2012, June). *Children and adolescents' moral evaluation of cyberbullying events: A cross-cultural comparison between a North American and a Latin American sample*. Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Toronto, Canada.

Vargas, S., Ban, L., Lee, B.O., Kirmayer, L.J., & Ryder, A. G. (2012, May). *Cultural differences in concepts of psychiatric disorder, resilience, and recovery*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture, New York, NY.

Ban, L., Lee, B.O., Kirmayer, L.J., **Vargas, S.**, & Ryder, A. G. (2012, March) *Cultural differences in concepts of psychiatric disorder, resilience, and recovery*. Paper presented at the 3rd World Congress of the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry, London, England.

Vargas, S., Ban, L., Lee, B.O., Kirmayer, L.J., & Ryder, A. G. (2011, June). *Culture and the folk concept of resilience*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture, Seattle, WA.

Ban, L., Lee, B.O., Kirmayer, L.J., **Vargas, S.**, & Ryder, A. G. (2011, April). *Culture and the folk concept of resilience*. Paper presented at the 1st International Conference on Cultural Psychiatry in the French-Speaking World, 'Migration Challenges and Mental Health', Paris, France.

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

- *Administrative Assistant* of the Special Issue on Cultural-Clinical Psychology in the Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology (May 2012- March 2013)
- *Volunteer Research Assistant* experiences: Child Development Laboratory, McGill University, Montreal, QC (2011-2012); Child and Adolescent Social Competence Laboratory, McGill University, Montreal, QC (2010-11); Eating Disorders Program, Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Montreal, QC (2010-11); University of Miami, Miami, FL (2007-08)
- *Undergraduate Thesis Student* at the Culture, Health, and Personality Laboratory, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec (2010-11)
- Spanish tutor (2013)
- *Intern* at Letca Films, Miami, FL (February -August 2008)
- *Volunteer* at Miami Children's Hospital (worked Pre- and Post- Operational Rooms, Emergency, and Oncology Units), Miami, FL (2005- 2007)
- *Abroad Experience*: Costa Rica (resided), Honduras (resided, citizen of), Indonesia (resided), Israel (resided), Italy (citizen of), Nicaragua (citizen of), Switzerland (resided), Spain (resided), Canada (resided), USA (citizen of, resided: Miami, FL; Washington, D.C.; New York City, NY)
- Writing: "23 de diciembre, 1972" (poem) published in McGill University's "The Veg" literary magazine